

Strong Armed Robbery

By Maria Francis and Gale VanHouten

Richard A. Smith, aka Champ, a retired Potomac State College employee who spends a few hours a day in the Underground playing pool with students, was robbed in front of the Underground of the Student Union Saturday, April 9. In 1992, he was recognized for holding the record for longest employment at PSC with 47 years of service.

Smith started his career at PSC in the kitchen after graduating high school in 1945. He worked for 13 cents an hour in the back before moving to the Student Union in 1963. He then became the custodian of the administration building. Finally, he became part of the security staff in 1977, a position he held until he retired.

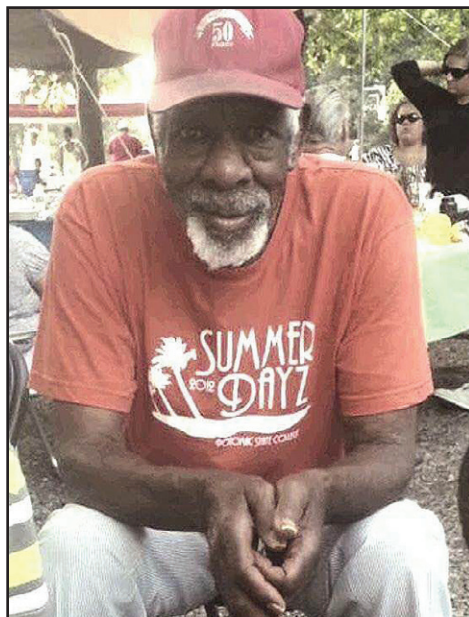


Photo by Courtney Smith

Richard A. Smith, aka Champ, has been working and spending time at Potomac State College for over 70 years.

Smith was named the recipient of the 1992 Distinguished Service Award at PSC from the

Alumni Association and still holds an excellent rapport with students, one of the reasons why this comes as such a surprise.

Anonymous sources say that they saw two men in ski masks outside of the Underground push Smith down and run off with his wallet.

On the afternoon Champ was attacked, four police agencies in the area responded to the incident. No arrests have been made.

Students are concerned about safety and emergency communication. "Texts should be immediate and detailed," said Zoe Lay. "I did not understand what was happening from what the text read."

The text sent to PSC Students said, "(Strong Armed Robbery) Near Student Union. Suspects 2 blk males wearing blk jackets and ski masks. Seen going north on Quad Be alert,

call 911." No other information followed.

Campus Police Chief Brian Kerling addressed some of the concerns about safety on campus. He states that although the campus has cameras, "none were pointed in the area where Champ was attacked." Campus PD is working toward acquiring more cameras to benefit the community.

Kerling recommends several ways to keep safe. Students with smart phones can download and install the LIVESAFE application, provided free to all students. The app gives a direct connection to the Campus Police Department as well as the Mineral County Dispatch and customized circles of individuals.

Kerling also recommends students avoid dark areas, travel in groups if at all possible, and if they see something, say something-even if it seems mundane.

Seldomridge Retiring

By Tessa Sawyers, Editor In Chief

Dr. Gary Seldomridge is retiring in May from Potomac State College after 41 years of service.

Seldomridge earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Davis and Elkins College before completing both his master's and PhD from West Virginia University. Since then, he has worked to improve math education throughout West Virginia.

He wrote the geometry module for Math II for West Virginia public schools.

Seldomridge has written many computer applications such as EASIWord 4.0, which is used to type mathematics and math drawings into Microsoft Word.

"I write everything for the programs," Seldomridge said. "No one ever really keeps up

with technology, but it is something I enjoy. I find it fun."

Even with teaching, writing computer applications and serving on various committees, Seldomridge still found time to write books. He has authored or co-authored several books such as "Wild and Wonderful World of Outdoor Mathematics," "Problem Solving Experiences in Algebra" and "Topology- And Introduction." He is currently working on a book about point set topology.

"I will miss working with the students the most," Seldomridge said. In retirement, he plans to continue working with students through a free tutoring program that he and his wife will open up at the First United Methodist Church in Keyser. He plans to write more computer applications and mathematics books. He also enjoys woodworking.

Some of Doctor Seldomridge's computer apps for mathematics are available at <http://www.selphp.com/>

ACADEMICS

Bosley added to Scholars' Wall

David Bosley, Ph.D. (Class of 1946), a former resident of Keyser, was recognized by the Alumni Association at Potomac State College of West Virginia University during a special ceremony on Sunday, April 24, with the inscription of his name on the Duke Anthony Whitmore/Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Academic Achievement Wall (Scholars' Wall), which was conceived in order to recognize the academic and scholarly achievements of students, alumni and faculty.

After attending Potomac State from 1944 - 1946, Dr. Bosley continued his education at

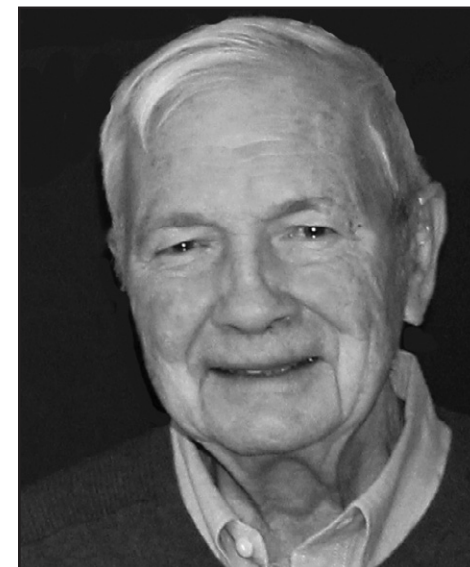
WVU where he earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry. While in college, he was a member of the Sigma Phi Omega Honor Society and Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest honor society for the liberal arts and sciences in the U.S.

Before working on his Ph.D., Dr. Bosley taught one year each at Elk Garden and Ridgeley High Schools, both of which are in West Virginia.

After earning his doctorate in physical chemistry from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Dr. Bosley began working for DuPont Corporation, but was

drafted into the Quarter Master Core where he served for two years in textile research at the rank of SP3.

Bosley was then re-employed by DuPont as a research associate in the textile fiber department for 38 years before retiring in 1978. During this time he also published several articles about the physical properties of fiber. Dr. Bosley has strong connections to Potomac State. His father, Thomas, attended PSC when it was a Preparatory Branch of WVU, as did four of his brothers, one sister and one of his children.



By Debbie Cruz
Dr. David Bosley, Scholars' Wall

Dr. Bosley currently resides in Grifton, N.C., where he previously served as mayor for 12 years.

Concealed Weapons Prohibited on Campus

From PSC Communications

While revisions to state law during the recent legislative session allow for the permit-less concealed carry of deadly weapons, including handguns, state higher education legal counsel have assured the College that a separate section of **State Code continues to allow our institution to exercise our personal property rights and prohibit the concealed carry of firearms on campus.** Our institution intends to continue exercising our statutory authority to prohibit concealed deadly weapons on our property, even while new statutory language provides for this allowance generally. Violation will be handled as a disciplinary offense.

The Code citation is provided below: §61-7-14. Right of certain persons to limit possession of firearms on premises.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this article, any owner, lessee or other person charged with the care, custody and control of real property may prohibit the carrying openly or concealed of any firearm or deadly weapon on property under his or her domain: Provided, That for purposes of this section "person" means an individual or any entity which may acquire title to real property.

Any person carrying or possessing a firearm or other deadly weapon on the property

of another who refuses to temporarily relinquish possession of such firearm or other deadly weapon, upon being requested to do so, or to leave such premises, while in possession of such firearm or other deadly weapon, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars or confined in the county jail not more than six months, or both: Provided, that the provisions of this section shall not apply to those persons set forth in subsections (3) through (6) of section six of this code while such persons are acting in an official capacity: Provided, however, That under no circumstances may any

person possess or carry or cause the possession or carrying of any firearm or other deadly weapon on the premises of any primary or secondary educational facility in this state unless such person is a law-enforcement officer or he or she has the express written permission of the county school superintendent.



AROUND CAMPUS

Antonio's Last Stand

By Maria Francis, Page Editor

At the end of this year, Antonio Rascon will have ended his twelve-year career at Potomac State in order to move to State College, Pennsylvania.

He is the operator of most of the activities that you are probably involved in. He overlooks the Underground of the Student Union. He oversees intramu-



Photo by Maria Francis
Antonio Rascon in the Student Union

als and organizes trips and recreational activities on and off campus.

Rascon is from a small town in the North of Spain called Soraluze but moved to a city called Valladolid before coming to the United States in 1992.

Many students were upset about the prospect of losing "Late Night" in the Student Union. "We were short on manpower," said Rascon. "After

Jeremy [Kaler] left, we didn't have enough people willing to run it."

He said he likes the idea of the petition to bring it back, but it's "not like we didn't want to do it anymore."

Rascon did his best, however, to bring something to the Student Union at least once a week with Fun Night, which is a great way for students to socialize, make crafts and eat food on Thursday evenings.

On top of this all-day job, Rascon is also a student, taking classes at PSC. He takes English and Anthropology classes.

"The best part of this job is when the students appreciate what you do," said Rascon. "It's hard when people get out of control; you need to know how to handle a situation before it turns into a bad one." As he pulled up a video of an intramural basketball game in 2009 that turned ugly fast, he said, "I cannot predict what is going to happen."

"Antonio is genuinely a good guy," said Morgan Dyche, student and co-president of the Geeks and Gamers Club, which Antonio is the adviser. "He is always willing to talk and do something for other people."

"I really enjoy working with young people," Rascon said. "I really think I am fit for this kind of job."

A Celebration of Science

By Caden Walters, Staff Writer



Photo by Caden Walters
Rob Morehouse placing blades on the mockup drone.

The buzzing of the drone filled the air as Potomac State held the fourth annual STEM festival on April 2. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The free event featured many interesting groups that submitted proposals, unveiled various contraptions, and held workshops. Many people will tell you that the STEM festival is a "celebration of science."

Workshops were held for K-12 students and members of the community. Many different activities were available, ranging from agriculture to the biomechanics of the human body. People from across the community joined in and helped participate and run the event.

Biology professors, Sheri Chisholm and Vicki Huffman, provided an interactive way of learning with their hands-on microbiology and anatomy workshops. Here, students gained a new perspective while working with and examining the organ systems and other displays.

Children from across the county had the opportunity to talk with Alana Hartman of the WV Department of Environmental Protection.

Five students from the Engineering Club worked together to submit a functional drone for the festival. The drone is a quad copter, which features four spinning blades manipulated by a wireless remote that controls its flight and suspension.

Before the event, only a wooden mock-up of the finished product was built. However, access to the library's 3D printer brought the project to life. Students printed parts of the drone and assembled them together.

"One hundred percent of the project is built by us," said Rob Morehouse, student and leader of the drone assignment. "The only thing outside of our creation is the code used for programming the device."

If the STEM festival really is a celebration of science, PSC knows how to do it right.

STUDENT NEWS

Student-Owned Business

By **Bobbie Bowen**, *Contributing Writer*

Business owner and college freshman: these two words don't normally describe the same person, but in the case of two 18-year-old Potomac State College freshmen, they fit perfectly together. Cameron Dyson is dual majoring in chemistry and business, while Tanner Oaks is a biology pre-med major. If future plans of being accepted into medical school were not stressful enough, the couple owns their own photography business, Milestone Studios Photography.

Five or six years ago, Cameron started taking pictures of her little sister. As time passed, she started to become more interested in makeup and would do small photoshoots with her friends, just for fun. Last year while looking through some of her old photos, she realized photography was something she enjoyed and was good at. It was at this point that she decided to quit her part time

job waitressing and pursue her own business with Tanner. He had previous experience professionally editing videos, so it made sense for them to work together. Tanner said, "I edited videos for years, so I thought pictures would be a piece of cake." The business officially launched in October 2015.

Balancing a business and a college education isn't easy for these two entrepreneurs. Cameron said, "That is the most difficult thing about what we do! We always put school first. Tanner and I are both extremely set on getting into medical school once we finish up our four-year degrees. The great thing about college is that our professors give us a syllabus at the beginning of the semester that has every assignment and test already scheduled. If it weren't for that, balancing work and school would be so much more difficult! Having

school scheduled for us allows us to plan ahead."

Since the business didn't take off until a few months into their freshman year, they didn't know the exact balance between the two. Remembering the past year Cameron recalled, "At a few points in the semester, both Tanner and I felt extremely overwhelmed by the amount of schoolwork we had and the number of sessions we were taking on each week, so we decided to cut back on our photography a bit."

During school months they don't schedule sessions on a weekend before a test so they have time to prepare, and only one or two sessions on their free weekends. As finals approach they plan on cutting back even more until the end of the semester, but with summer they will be taking on full-time scheduling.

Most of the sessions they do in natural light, on-site photography, but they just purchased

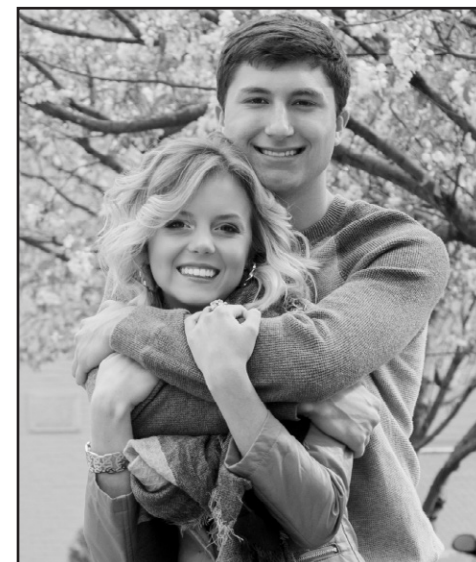


Photo by Milestones Photography
Cameron Dyson and Tanner Oaks,
Co-Owners of Milestones Photography

and received new equipment for an indoor wedding session they have booked in May. They plan on offering more indoor studio-style sessions along with the on-site photography when classes let out in May. Most of their portraits are of families, but they also take senior and couple shoots.

Milestone Studios Photography has the ability to grow along with its young talented owners.

Four Steps to Success in Finals

By **B.J. Sires**, *Design Editor*

With finals and graduation approaching, it isn't breaking news that college students are starting to become more stressed than they ever have before. To help avoid as much unneeded stress as possible, try these tricks.

1) Flash Cards

Flash Cards are primarily used for memorizing vocabulary words or simple facts that are forgotten the second that the test leaves the

student's mind. However, these nifty little cards can be utilized to remember almost any fact, question or thought and can conveniently fit inside a pocket to be taken anywhere for studying on the go.

2) Sleep

Those all-night study sessions the night before a final can actually cause more harm than help. The lack of sleep hinders

the hippocampus from reciting all the facts a person had crammed inside the night before. Students should get a well-rested night's sleep before exams.

3) Seek Help

There are many ways that students can receive the help they need to pass their finals. Professors are always willing to answer questions for their classes. The school also offers help through

peer and professional tutors in the Academic Success Center below the library.

4) Relax!!!

Lastly, relax. Not everyone will ace their finals, but that's okay. Study hard, but remember to take breaks.

A glass of water only seems to get heavier the longer a person holds it.

STUDENT LIFE

Kenyan Inspiration

By Joclyn Kidwell, *Page Editor*

In January I spent three weeks in Kenya. I have hundreds of stories of my trip. There were movie-like landscapes and beautiful animals. There were also starving children, miles of poverty-stricken shanties, and an incredible feeling of heartbreak. Emotions come in waves when you are in a place like this; it changes you.

The people of Kenya will forever be a part of me. Their absolute joy for life is awe-inspiring. It is generation after generation of love - mostly because that is all they have. Because of this, the children of Kenya are brilliant little lights of courage and joy.

One of these little miracles had a tremendous impact on my trip, and honestly, every day since. A boy named Mike is my

very favorite memory of Kenya.

Walking down the dusty road, I passed a school. All of the children leaving for lunch at their homes filtered out into the street. They wanted to come close and talk, but none of them would give me a high five or shake my hand.

For the first time ever, I was the minority. I was the stranger that didn't look like anyone else these kids had ever seen.

They giggled uncontrollably as they babbled in Swahili. I laughed along with them as we continued to walk.

We passed another school; the crowd grew. I now felt like the Pied Piper with close to 50 children swarming around. The crowd grew as we passed the third school, and I saw a familiar face.

It was Mike, a little boy I had met a few days earlier. He didn't know, but we were on our way to his house.

I reached out my hand from the crowd. Without any hesitation, Mike took my hand, smiled the biggest smile, and walked with me in the midst of the crowd. The children laughed harder; the Swahili chatter got louder.

As we got closer to Mike's house, our crowd had dwindled as children broke off to make their way to their homes. When we got to Mike's door, I politely told the remainders goodbye.

Mike's mother invited us to have a seat in the small plastic chairs that furnished one of the two rooms of their small mud house. I reached in the plastic bag and showed Mike the reason



Mike and his family at their home in Bungoma, Kenya.

for our visit. It was a new school uniform. That little boy's face lit up, and I will never forget it.

He had shown me how much of a little blessing he is when he took my hand, not knowing what I had in the other. He was not afraid to show me love, even when his friends laughed.

Little Mike will never understand that the gift he received that day will never match the gift he gave.

Summer Internships

By Joclyn Kidwell, *Page Editor*

Students can earn money and advance career options at the same time with internships.

Internships are available; you just have to know where to look. In the summer of 2015, I was lucky enough to land an internship with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. This has been very rewarding because I have gotten to work for the past year in a field that I love. It's a paid internship, and I get to rub elbows with my future colleagues.

Don't wait for the internship to come to you. Go look for it!

Whether it's business marketing, criminal justice or agriculture, try to find an internship that will give you experience. Many companies may not even think about offering interns until you request one.

Take a resume and copy of your transcripts to businesses. No matter how small the job might seem, it will be worth it to get your foot in the door. If you're interested in communications, radio stations are great place to look. If you're interested in the medical field, go to some doctor offices. I'm sure by



Joclyn Kidwell doing a stream assessment for the WV DEP during the 2015 summer.

Photo provided by Joclyn Kidwell.

now you get the point; you have to get out there. Most importantly be confident. Let them know that you could be an asset to their business.

The West Virginia Governor's Office has a website that places interns into positions

within the state department.

That website is www.wv.gov/gip.

All of these positions are paid internships. So not only are you getting a paycheck, but also you're getting your foot into the door of a state job.

SPORTS

PSC Softball Plans to Finish Strong

By DeJhard Kimbrough, Page Editor

The Potomac State Softball had a great season last year that resulted in the team winning its region and district. The Lady Catamounts also made it all the way to the NJCAA Softball World Series for the first time in school history. This season, the PSC Softball Team is off to a good start. Through their first 30 games, they have posted a record of 23-7. The softball team is also currently undefeated at home.

“We have played very well in spots, and we have also showed weaknesses in some spots,” said Coach Jim Walton of his team’s performance so far this year. He doesn’t think his team is playing their best softball right now, but they are at a crucial part of their schedule where they need to get

some quality wins to help with the seed placement for the tournament at the end of the year.

When asked about standout players so far, Walton stated that they have the luxury of having a very deep team. “Fortunately, we’re very strong throughout our entire lineup, which makes it difficult

for opposing coaches on a daily basis. We have 15 players, and on any given day, any of those 15 can contribute.” Individually speaking, the team does have some leading players. Currently, the lead hitter is Beth Cook and on the pitching side, Danica Rodgers, Beth Cook and Josie Clark.



Photo by Raymond Burner.

The softball team waits to congratulate Morgan Basye on her walk-off home run.

The PSC Softball Team is losing a lot of players after this year. Walton hopes that the four freshman on the team will return next year. He has also already signed eight players for next year’s team. “The new players next year are going to have tough spots to fill because our sophomores this year have played great for us both last year and this year.”

When asked about their chances of having a repeat of last year, Walton said, “Things have to fall in place and all come together when you are playing good competition.” Walton believes that his team is very capable of having a repeat of last year by making it to the NJCAA Women’s College World Series for the second consecutive year; they just have to play their best softball at the right time.

Women’s Lacrosse Gets First Wins of the Season

Paige Harrison, Contributing Writer



Photo by Raymond Burner.

Kayla Littleton scores a goal against FCC.

The Potomac State College Women’s Lacrosse Team put an end to their four game losing streak with a 13-8 win over Frederick Community College at Stay-

man Field. That was their first win of the season.

On Sunday, April 10, the Lady Cats combined a week of hard practices and scouting to edge a win over FCC at the Catamount’s first home game.

The Lady Catamounts came out strong scoring nine points in the first 30 minutes of play to put them up by eight at halftime. The Lady Cats held their lead.

Frederick made a 7-point run in the beginning of the second half, coming within one point of the Lady Cats, but PSC was able to

close them out with four goals in the last four minutes of the game.

Savannah Chamberlain, Hannah Bennett, Kayla Littleton, and Lindsey Chamberlain all ended the game with hat tricks, scoring 3 goals each. Littleton also provided 3 assists.

FCC had previously beaten the Catamounts 16-9 in their season opener. As a tiebreaker, the Catamounts will travel to Frederick on April 25 to play FCC for a third time this season.

The Lady Cats played again on their home turf the following Tuesday, April 12, against Anne Arundel

Community College. They fell to AACC by a score of 17-9.

On Saturday, April 16, Potomac fell to College of Southern Maryland, 17-9, but rebounded just one day later on Sunday by staging a comeback win against CCBC Essex by a score of 14-13.

More information about the PSC Women’s Lacrosse Team can be found on the school’s website, <http://www.potomacstatecollege.edu/athletics/wlacrosse/>, or on the team’s twitter page, @PSCWomensLax.

TRAVEL

A Stellar Journey: Cross-Country in Two Days

By Rebekah Platzer, *Contributing Writer*

When I thought about driving across the country in a small car, I thought about how boring and long the trip would be. When I did it over spring break with my boyfriend, it was fun and exciting. We drove from Pennsylvania to L.A. in under three days! Our trip weaved in and around the Rocky Mountains. We got stuck in a blizzard in the Utah desert, trekked up the barren sand dunes of Death Valley and toured the studio that created countless family favorite movies.

I have lived in five states and seven towns, all of them on the East Coast. This trip showed me how beautiful and diverse our country is from corner to corner. My boyfriend, Ryan, lives in L.A. so this was his trip back home. We left Pennsylvania on a Sunday afternoon, and made it to

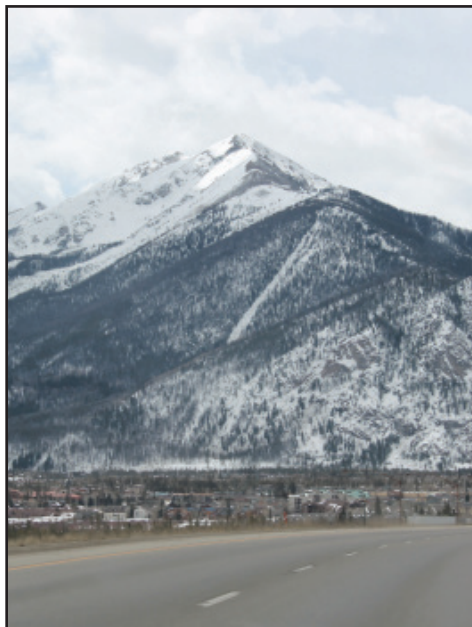


Photo by Rebekah Platzer

Las Vegas that Tuesday night! A lot of people doubted we could make it, so we made it our mission to prove them wrong.

After getting through the familiar northern states, we found ourselves in Colorado where the land finally started to form beautiful hills.

After several hours of driving, we could see the most breathtaking sight at the very horizon of the sky. The Rocky Mountains were in front of us, snowy peaks and all. As we got closer, the mountains seemed to swallow us whole. We couldn't see the top of them when we looked out the window, because they were massive!

I never wanted to leave the mountains, but when I saw the rock formations of the Utah desert, I fell in love. As we looked around, it felt like we were in an old western movie – of course, we had western music playing as we drove – and it was not complete until I saw a tumbleweed blow across the road. I started to see the sky turn and dark clouds form. Before we knew it we were in a blizzard. I never imagined that we would go through a blizzard in the middle of the desert! The blizzard was the cause of multiple accidents and cranky drivers. It seemed like Ryan and I were the only ones who knew how to drive in the snow.

After a long journey driving through mountains and blizzards, we finally got to Las



Photo by Ryan Miorelli

Platzer in her Jawa costume on the location of Star Wars.

Vegas to sleep. The next day was my personal favorite. Many of our friends and family know that we are huge fans of the movie *Star Wars* – dressing up and doing charity work – but not many people know that some of the scenes from *A New Hope* were shot in Death Valley.

Being the huge fans we are, we went there to find all the movie shots and take pictures! Ryan took pictures of me in my Jawa costume, and I took pictures of him in his Luke Skywalker costume.

Once the sun started to set we took some pictures of us looking at the twin suns. We headed out listening to the “Binary Sunset” from the soundtrack. It was an unreal day spent on Tatooine, and

something neither of us will ever forget.

Our next big stop was to the birthplace of many favorite films like *Shrek*, *Madagascar* and *How to Train Your Dragon*. Touring Dreamworks Studio was one of the most amazing things I've done. They showed us secret passages hidden in bookshelves, the numerous Oscars and Golden Globes they've won and where they created the concepts for all our beloved movies.

It was a dream come true to travel across the country with someone I love and visit so many amazing places. It is incredible to see how different the country is out west and something more people should find time to do. It was unforgettable, and I hope to do it again soon!

AROUND CAMPUS

Goff, Outstanding Professor of the Year

By Staff Writer

Professor Nicklaus Goff is the 2016 Potomac State College Outstanding Professor of the Year. Goff came to PSC as a visiting professor in 2012 and was hired as a tenure track professor in 2013.

"The most rewarding part of teaching at a college level is watching the students succeed," said Goff. "That may sound like a canned answer, but it is definitely true. Watching the students as they grow, learn, mature, and finally graduate is one of the most rewarding experiences.

"I have numerous jobs and duties as a professor, but my purpose is to educate students. That is where my pride and the intrinsic value of teaching lies. In other words, I do not feel I have succeeded as a professor unless they succeed as students."

Goff's goals include being promoted to assistant professor and gaining tenure.

"Professor Goff brings a passion to his field of expertise," said Gale Vanhouten, former student.



Photo by PSC Communication Department

Biology Professor Sheri Chisholm presents Prof. Goff with his plaque. Also pictured are Campus President Leonard Colelli and Finalist English Professor Martha Johnson-Olin.

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Slaubaugh Named Outstanding Staff Award



Photo provided by PSC Communications Department

President Colelli (right) presenting Slaubaugh (center) with her plaque. Also pictured Debi Cruse of the Communications Department.

By Maria Francis, Page Editor

Susan Slaubaugh humbly accepted the 2016 Outstanding Staff of the Year Award.

"Considering how many deserving people there are at this college, it makes this award so much more of an honor," said Slaubaugh. "I feel like I represent everyone that should be awarded."

Slaubaugh has worked at PSC for 30 years, 25 of which were at Student Support Services. Then, she moved to the business office where she is an Administrative Associate.

"I really enjoy all of the wonderful people I work with," said Slaubaugh.

Terrie Rogers, who works with and nominated Slaubaugh for the accolade, said she has never seen Slaubaugh upset or angry. "She has that calming, cheerleading ability to motivate people," Rogers said.

"Susan jumps in with both feet and takes on challenges easily," said Rogers. "She is a real asset to Potomac State."

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pscpasquino.wordpress.com

OPINION

Federal Aid Issues

By Tessa Sawyers, *Editor-In-Chief*

For those of you who are not familiar with Federal Aid, EFC stands for Estimated Family Contribution. This is the magic number that the Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) generates in response to the numbers that you plug in. It asks for things like your parents' salaries, whether they own land or if they have filed for bankruptcy in the previous year.

The FAFSA is what determines whether the government will be helping you pay for college. Some people qualify for grants (free money). Most of the time, students are automatically qualified for federal loans. Some of these loans accrue interest during your time at college (unsubsidized loans), while others do not (subsidized loans). Both of which you are required to pay back after leaving college.

EFC calculation is a problem that many middle-class college students face. Middle-class families are constantly on the cusp of the Federal Aid mountain. The household income for middle-class families usually exceeds the magic number that qualifies students for federal aid. The government sees them as not needing extra help, but how much can they actually contribute to their children's college fund?

Let's base our example on the typical "American dream" family in 2013. The Gomez family has a household income of \$80 thousand per year. They are comfortably within the middle class boundary. The Gomez' have two children who are two years apart. Both students work a part-time job (\$10,000). The older

one plans on attending an in-state public college, then transferring to an in-state university for the last two years of college (\$21,000/year for the university). The younger child decides to go straight into the workforce.

The cost for an older student to attend college may be around \$17,000. This does include both parent and student contribution. However, the FAFSA does not take the water bill, electric bill, mortgage or car payment into consideration. The FAFSA does not look at your grocery bills. It does not look at expenditures that affect the family's life. Is it realistic that this family would be able to shell out \$17,000 a year for their child to attend college?

Who has to foot the bill? Typically, the college student, who is learning to survive, is also stuck with mounds of debt. This debt is typically in the form of a ten-year repayment plan. If the loan is around \$25,000, the payment of \$280 a month will end just in time for the student to have children and start the cycle over again. If the student is hard-working and lucky enough to land a decent job, he/she just might avoid drowning in the vicious cycle.

I think that a reform of student aid should be looked into. The middle-class student is suffering. If most careers (excluding manual labor) require a bachelor's degree, it should be made easier for the student to acquire one without landing a small house worth of debt.

Who is left to foot the bill?

Batman Versus Superman

By Morgan Dyche, *Staff Writer*

Not too long ago I decided to go to the movies. I paid for my ticket, bought some popcorn and then I took my seat. I then proceeded to spend the next 2 hours and 33 minutes of my life watching a screen that was nothing but a giant middle finger pointing at me; I went to see *Batman Vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice*.

I will go on record and say that I have not been excited or interested in this film from the moment they announced it. This



Photo Source www.youtube.com

is mainly because I am not a fan of director Zack Snyder, but that's another story for another day. It's safe to say that I didn't have high expectations for this film.

With that, I can honestly say that this film is just another popcorn flick. It exists on the sole purpose of getting people to buy tickets and popcorn. Even worse, it isn't a very good popcorn film.

This is probably one of the most boring superhero movies I've ever seen. The plot is absolutely nonsensical and the haphazard editing doesn't help that at all. The worst part about this film though is the fact that none of the characters are likeable.

The overly dark nature of the film makes it hard for me to get behind and care about the characters. I'm not saying that the acting was

bad, because many of the performances were great. Ben Affleck is an absolutely awesome Batman. The problem is the characterization of Batman. Actually, the problem is all of the characters.

I'm pretty sure Batman would use his "World's Greatest Detective" badge and actually find a reason to fight Superman other than just to sell movie tickets. This movie's plot could have been solved if all of the characters just

sat down together and had a conversation, but instead they are all too stupid to negotiate.

Now I know that everyone is saying this, but I can't avoid it because it is true. The best part of the film is the end fight. It truly is an awesome fight. Snyder can really shoot an action sequence, but he shouldn't base his movies on one fight scene. It just doesn't work like that.

All and all, the film is good for a mindless trip to the theater, but that's about it. This is a really disappointing introduction to DC Comic's film universe and honestly makes me even more hesitant about *Suicide Squad* than I already was. I have some words of advice to Warner Bros. When it comes to their superhero movies... Stop giving Zack Snyder money!

AROUND CAMPUS

McNeill's Rangers: Remembering the Past

By Trevor Kesner,
Contributing Writer

A blast from the past came to Grace United Methodist Church with a presentation by Gary Clites and local retired professor Jim Hoey.

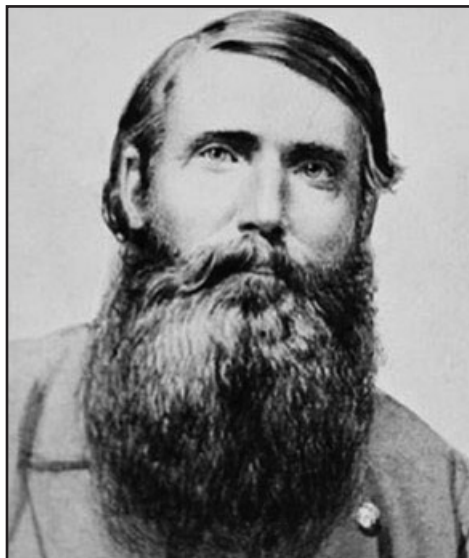
Professor Jim Hoey painted the picture of a man and his crew going through the familiar sights of the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. The presentation was given on behalf of the Mineral County Historical Society.

The two gave their presentation with much fervor. Their love of history and research shined through on important points and concise delivery.

The presentation was rich in content, covering travel routes and giving in-depth information for each important figure in history.

Amidst this storm of information, the two presenters still found time to sprinkle in trivia. For instance, it was mentioned that future presidents McKinley and Hayes were present near Cumberland at the time of McNeill's Raid. Nevertheless, the most daring part of McNeill's career was the primary focus.

The rangers braved the Union front to capture Union Army Generals Crook and Kelly. As McNeill's rangers were a partisan force, they were not officially considered a part of the Confederate Army.



John McNeill Photo courtesy of housedivided.dickinson.edu

They were not considered soldiers, so any treatment that prisoners of war would get was not a luxury allowed to them. They would be killed if captured. John McNeill and his rangers were a partisan force during the Civil War.

They were referred to as bushwackers, a term for one who enacts guerrilla warfare or fights in a battle of attrition. Their primary goal was to disrupt Union activities on the east coast.

It was presented to the audience through the use of a multi-media presentation. Maps of West Virginia were used in reference to locations where McNeill's Rangers would have travelled through. The band of 63 men travelled through Frankfort Road to Old Furnace with Crook and Kelly in tow.

The speech was packed with precious information that people should not forget. The way the speakers went about it certainly resonated with the audience. It will be exciting to see what they do in the future as the Mineral County Historical Society seeks to hold more events.



Photo courtesy of advrider.com

Censorship versus Creativity

By Tim VanHouten, Page Editor



Photo courtesy of science20.com

Where does the line between censorship and free speech exist for you? The website media.okstate defines censorship as the "Official prohibition or restriction of any type of expression believed to threaten the political, social, or moral order. It may be imposed by governmental authority, local or national, by a religious body, or occasionally by a powerful group."

These are my questions: Are we getting denied the chance to expand our skills of analytical thinking to keep from being offended or offending others or fear of being wrong, and how can we be expected to grow as individuals and be leaders if we are not allowed to think for ourselves?

Free speech in speaking and writing is imperative to increasing our analytical thinking skills in addition to the development of new ideas. Consider censorship as being confined into a small box and being force-fed information. You will only know what you are allowed to know. That does not help us advance as a species. We are hard-

wired to be thinkers, to overcome obstacles and to be innovative.

In the United States there are campuses that uninvite speakers, refuse comedian acts and silence their students when they question the acts of the status quo. At Rutgers, Condoleezza Rice was protested till she withdrew; comedians have to "sell" their acts at NACA (National Association of Campus Activities) before being accepted on the college circuit and Hayden Barnes at Valdosta State University was threatened with expulsion for protesting the building of a parking garage with student fees.

Do not allow yourself to fall prey to these circumstances. Read something you find offensive, watch a movie that you find disturbing or listen to a person that doesn't share your ideology. Without the freedom of free speech, technology will become stagnant, social causes will go not be fought, and groundbreaking discoveries will go unfounded.

We can't allow that kind of oppression to go on unchallenged.

TRAVEL

Italy Spring Break Experience

By Mike Myers, Contributing Writer

Five Potomac State College students and two staff members embarked on a spring break trip of a lifetime. The trip was led by Debi Cruse. Karen Sommers (PSC Residence Hall Director), Caitlin Woodson, Courtney Helmstetter, Kiana Sturtz, Lyncasia Jones and I journeyed to Italy to experience the culture, food and shopping.

After several hours of delays, lost luggage and a crazy ride through the narrow streets of Rome, we finally arrived at our hotel. I enjoyed a delicious Italian dinner of Tagliatelle al ragu Bolognese which are flat noodles covered in a thick Bolognese sauce, topped with bacon, ground pork and fresh mozzarella cheese.

When I walked into the Sistine Chapel to view the beautiful artwork of Michelangelo, the Bible story came to life. I followed the story about Noah and then back to the judgment. It was hard to comprehend how a man could paint such an awe-inspiring story.

"I could hear the roar of the crowd..."

Looking up at the massive colosseum was breathtaking. As I walked through the huge arches into a structure built nearly 2000 years ago, I imagined the torture, mayhem, gladiator battles and celebrations that took place. In my mind, I



Photo by Mike Myers
Boats travel through the canals of Venice, Italy.

could hear the roar of the crowd as they cheered on their favorite gladiator.

The Italian Gothic architecture in Medieval Orvieto in the Umbria region was spectacular. I climbed the 164 feet to the top of Torre Del Moro to get an amazing 360-degree view of the city and surrounding landscape. PSC Sophomore Courtney Helmstetter said, "Orvieto surprised me. I didn't expect to like the countryside of Italy as much as Rome or Venice, but the medieval structures of Orvieto probably won my vote over for my favorite place."

In Florence, while relaxing in the Piazza Santa Croce, I met former WVU football player,

Milo Austin. He noticed my WVU cap and asked to have his picture taken with me.

In Pisa, home of the famous leaning tower, I climbed the 294 steps to the top of the tower. The lean of the tower made it feel like I was falling or drunk.

We took a motorboat ride across the Giudecca Canal to Venice. There are no sewers in Venice; therefore, waste spills directly into the city's 176 canals. As a result, three feet of sewer sludge sits at the bottom of most canals, and in the summer an awful stench fills the air. The weather was cool, so there was no bad odor.

Helmstetter said, "I never thought I could be speechless

when seeing something. I've learned about these places ever since I can remember and all of a sudden I was standing right in front of them. It was a feeling like no other."

We returned to Venice for a Gondola ride through the centuries-old canals and were serenaded by an accordion player and vocalist. We took a boat ride to the island of Burano, which is famous for its lace-making.

Sturtz said, "The highlight of my trip was the gondola ride in Venice. Venice definitely stood out from all of the other places in Europe, because everywhere you would turn, it looked like something from a postcard."

Sommers said, "The highlight of the trip was watching the students experience Italy for the first time. I took a similar trip my junior year of undergrad, so it was cool to see the same excitement from them that I had experienced five years ago. I got to relive the experience a little. I truly hope that the abroad program is something we can continue at PSC. The world is full of adventures and opportunity that I know our students can benefit."

Cruse said, "The students effectively learned monetary exchange and how to travel in a foreign country. They were exposed to Italy's history, while also gaining first-hand insights into Italy's culture, people, arts, architecture and cuisine. Experience outside of the classroom serves to enhance what's learned inside the classroom."

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

By Gale VanHouten
Page Editor

The Dead Walk!

Mayhem and paranoia spread across campus last week as students planned survival strategies for the impending zombie apocalypse. Students armed themselves with Nerf guns, socks and marshmallow ammunition. Blue prints were developed and the shortest, safest routes were mapped out to maximize the human's chances of survival. Alliances were being built and sacrifices were planned to increase chances of winning.

The distrust started early on. Many felt unable to trust their friends. Sunday, April 17 kicked off the opening event of Humans Verses Zombies, the most exciting game of tag.

B.J. Sires, a sophomore, said that Humans versus Zombies resulted in him running from doorway to doorway, armed with a Nerf gun, scared and paranoid last year. His anxiety was high, yet he enjoyed every minute playing. His will to survive and win the game fueled his strength. He trusted only a small group of friends, and they moved in a circle formation, Nerf guns at the ready. Traveling to class was an ordeal. Humans avoided the quad and utilized the safety of doorways and buildings.

Missions were required daily and heightened the chances of turning into a zombie. Zombies were everywhere while you were capturing the cure, saving the



Photo by Morgan Dyche

Students take time away from HvZ to portray the intensity of the game and how it feels to be sought by zombies.

humans, and avoiding sudden walking death.

Geeks and Gamers Club hosted the 7th annual Human verses Zombies competition at Potomac State and the students were prepared. Ian Robinson Geeks and Gamers Co-President is excited to see the magnitude of response to the event. Over 98 people signed up to participate. Many students find playing with the dead helps revive them from their end of semester blues.

The buzz amongst the students had been building for several weeks. It's a tradition that Geeks and Gamers are proud to bring back to the students. They

were able to seek funding for the event from a grant passed by the SGA. Geeks and Gamers were able to provide a great event with an end-of-event pizza party.

Gnarwhal Studios founded the game in 2005. The internationally-recognized game is free to play and available for anyone who wants to host or participate. The goal of the game is for the humans to survive the week on campus surrounded by hordes of zombies, while completing "capture the flag" type missions, classes, and regular campus life. The outbreak starts with two Original Zombies, their goal as patient zero is to infect as many humans as possi-

ble. Only the game moderators know who the OZs are, and they remain human during the game.

This year the OZs were revealed as B.J. Sires and Gale Vanhouten, and later in the week, Dr. Brown and Antonio Rascon. Shelby Shockey was horrified to learn B.J. and Gale were the OZs and felt absolutely betrayed. "I trusted you! I can't believe I trusted both of you," shouted Shelby after she was tagged by Sires.

A panel of moderators regulate the game. This year's game master was Ian Robinson and his panel of moderators were Brandon Borrer, Iain Feezle, Shawn Bishop, and Brandon Lee. Their job was to be sure the students were playing fair, safely and adhering to the rules. Zombies won four of the six completions, but the humans were strong this year and managed to grab this year's win.



Photo by Gale VanHouten
Students gather in the Union for Wednesday night's mission.